



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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MARCH 16, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLUMBIA MAN SENTENCED FOR FIREARMS VIOLATION

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Columbia, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Wilmer Thomas Wilkerson, 53, of Columbia, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to three years and six months in federal prison without parole.

On July 28, 2003, **Wilkerson** pleaded guilty to being in possession of a Ruger .357 magnum revolver on May 24, 2002, in Boone County. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Wilkerson** has a 1997 criminal felony conviction for leaving the scene of an accident and a 1995 felony conviction for driving while intoxicated.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Lynn. The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Columbia, Mo., Police Department and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow